AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

      This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

      1.   (Currently Amended): A multimedia message service wherein a message is sent from a sender terminal in a multimedia message service environment comprising a multimedia message service center, comprising:

      sending, by the sender terminal, a Multimedia Messaging Service message which includes an electronic stamp, and

      verifying the validity of the electronic stamp by the multimedia message service center,

      wherein the electronic stamp is an element associated with paying for sending the message, and includes a value of the stamp, and

      wherein the value of the stamp depends on ~~at least one of a type of message and~~ a number of addressees that the message is to be sent to.

      2.   (Original): The multimedia message service claimed in claim 1 wherein said Multimedia Messaging Service message comprises a header containing parameters relating to the transportation and the content of said message and a body containing elements of said message and one parameter in said header is a field corresponding to the stamping of said message.

      3.   (Original): The multimedia message service claimed in claim 2 wherein said value associated with said stamping field of said header is an encrypted numerical value.

4.   (Original): The multimedia message service claimed in claim 2 wherein said value associated with said stamping field in said header is a binary value indicating the presence of said electronic stamp in said message body.

5.   (Original): The multimedia message service claimed in claim 4 wherein a body part of said message body contains said electronic stamp in the form of an encrypted numerical value.

6.   (Withdrawn): A method of sending a multimedia message service (MMS) message from a sender terminal, said method comprising the steps of:

the sender terminal requesting an electronic stamp from a multimedia message service stamp provider;

assigning the value of said stamp to a parameter of said multimedia message service message sent by said terminal;

a multimedia message service center receiving said multimedia message service message;

said multimedia message service center verifying the validity of said stamp; and

sending said multimedia message service message to said destination terminal if the value of said stamp is validated.

7.   (Withdrawn): The method claimed in claim 6 further comprising a step of invalidating the electronic stamp used to send said message.

8.   (Withdrawn): The method claimed in claim 7 wherein said step of invalidating said electronic stamp is executed by said multimedia message service center, which sends the value of the used stamp to said MMS stamp provider.

9.   (Withdrawn): The method claimed in claim 7 wherein said step of invalidating said electronic stamp is executed by said MMS stamp provider at the time of supplying said stamp.

10.   (Withdrawn): A multimedia message service multimedia message system adapted to send a message in a multimedia message service environment comprising a multimedia message service center, which system comprises an electronic stamp provider, a stamp being associated with an MMS message to be sent by said system and said multimedia message service center being adapted to verify the validity of said stamp.

11.   (Withdrawn): The multimedia messaging system claimed in claim 10 wherein said stamp provider supplies an encrypted numerical value at the request of a terminal and said multimedia message service center holds a corresponding decryption key.

12.   (Withdrawn): The multimedia messaging system claimed in claim 10 wherein said stamp provider has a register containing a list of stamps already used.

13.   (Withdrawn): The multimedia messaging system claimed in claim 11 wherein said stamp provider has a register containing a list of stamps already used.

14.   (Previously Presented): The multimedia message service claimed in claim 1 wherein the terminal is a mobile telephone.